

Audre Lorde to Howard Zinn Library

Proposed Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 2, 6-7:45

(1) Introductions - people [10 minutes]

Nicole F, Susie, Tim D., Genna, Rebecca, Kristin, Myrna, Emily B., Chris G. Heather M., Vered, John, Stacie W, Terranova

(2) Introduction to the library - if necessary [5 minutes]

Vered outlined the history of the library starting from the beginning. Talked about the space, the collection, the people. Then covered what happens on the listserv.

(3) Updates from last meeting - please send/bring this information with you if you have it [15 minutes]:

a) shelving

Didn't hear back from anyone that they were willing to take on the task as presented in the minutes.

John: running out of room, but could likely move milk crates to make room for a bookshelf.

Kristin - working on helping to find and accumulate crates and organize the installation with John

b) compilation of media coverage - someone started this on the wiki!

Nicole is updating this as she can. All the media stuff is up there.

c) emergency team for picking up books (Done)

Susie: In the case of a shutdown where stuff has to be taken offsite, we wanted to put together an emergency team. Eight people have signed up to come in with their cars to take the books away as needed. Three people have signed up to be outreach folks, possibly help shuttle things to cars, etc.,

Whoever hears of the emergency first calls the first person on the list, and then the phone tree is activated.

d) winterization?

John: there are issues with burning anything within the tent (for heat). The winterization group now believes that military tents might be the way to go for the working groups. \$5K budget approved to purchase four tents for other working groups.

Students from MIT are working on a plan, but they may agree that surplus tents are the best option.

(4) Emergency and post-OB plans [25 minutes]

Emergency Plan: let's finalize! One person take on creating phone tree with a short paragraph of instructions. (Done.)

Post-OB plans: I (Vered) think we need a "plan for a plan." How do we utilize the consensus process when we have 5-10 people at each in-person meeting, with many more interested people who are unable to be there? How do we want to make a decision like this? VM proposes that for this meeting, we come up with 3-4 possible concrete suggested outlines for what we might do with the library post-OB. Smaller committee adds more detail and brings back to group over email. Next meeting (hopefully) reaches consensus, brings to larger group

over email to see if there are major issues.

Last week, when they were having this discussion, it was suggested that a vision statement may help with figuring out what is important to us. It seemed important to many of the people in attendance that it is important to keep the collection together (rather than be donated). Alana is working on the vision statement and has shared this with the list.

Library is conceptual and includes the online and outreach work that we've done.

Are there other libraries like this in Boston?

Sort of. Privately held or held by nonprofits.

Petition the city to keep the library here in the park as a lasting memory of OB, as a free library in the park. Possibly work with other Occupies to keep all of their libraries in place.

So after this is over, will Metacomet want its books back? Unsure, that remains to be seen. It might be put to better use here?

How will we come back together if OB decamps? Maybe this is something we could address at that time?

Other public space collections exist and we could look at those models to see what city permits are required.

1. Research other models for public space libraries/collections. **Point person? Rebecca willing to help with this research.**

2. Do some research into community spaces that might be good local hosts. **Point person for this research task: Susie H**

One suggestion would be COMmunity church of Boston that lost its library in a flood.

3. How do we get together after OB decamps? Do we want to set up a time to meet post-eviction?

Some Occupies are instituting something like, "In the event of a shutdown, people would meet 7 days later at a given location."

Decision: if the encampment is shut down, Emily will set up a Doodle poll to determine when we will meet again.

This may depend on what happens with the larger movement. Maybe we could let the solution evolve over time as resources and changes happen.

What about an impromptu mobile library that would use social media to let folks know where they would show up? As an example, "puppet bike" in Chicago. A rotating group of people working out who would take the books out when.

Another idea related to mobile - maybe the collection or portions of the collection could move to different indoor places (farmer's markets, schools, or residential communities) **Research task: Kristin - point person**

This may help people to browse again. Having this collection with no catalog has forced folks to look around rather than looking for a specific item

Using established weekly programs as a place to set up shop (e.g. bring to farmers markets - check out a books bring it back next week)

Dudley - if the library is being closed, what is the policy around taking collections as a whole.
Another action item - looking at models for book mobiles, etc.

Lots of research tasks generated, but this will be put out through the minutes.

Where will shutdown plan live amongst all of our google docs? **Annotated list of links from A-Z, possibly the wiki.**

basic emergency plan will be in print in the tent (**Susie will draft the emergency plan and either post or put out a call for someone to post in the tent**)

tuck the annotated list into minutes and **Heather M will send list out again**

(5) Outreach and Media [15 minutes]

A lot of the OB working groups are communicating with each other and with the public via twitter. Should we? Discussion of pros, cons, and abilities/energy.

Vered's on Twitter and notices that a lot of communication between and among groups on Twitter.

We would tweet in emergency situations. What other things would we tweet about?

Logistically, it can be a good way to find out what is going on with our own or other working groups. Other OB working groups seem to be using it a lot. We could use it to help working groups know what we're up to and stay in touch with them. It seems like it also lends itself toward transparency.

OWS library tweets infrequently. related articles and some news.

If we plan to go in a mobile direction, this would be a good time to collect followers who may be interested in information about where the library will end up later.

Look at its power for two way communication and not just press releases and announcements.

Question: what sort of time and energy investment would go into it and would that change over time?

Depends on what energy there is in the library group as far as using the account. One vision was to have 4-5 people with the login to the account. It often doesn't take an enormous amount of time for it to be effective.

Concern - don't want our reference interviews to happen over Twitter. Could be problematic in terms of trust and accountability. Deep or reference questions might best be referred outside of Twitter. (Easy enough to do a referral)

Twitter might be a good first place to go for people to find us, even if we don't tweet that often.

Concern: be sure to communicate intra-library information outside of Twitter as not all in the library use Twitter.

Concern: there isn't a uniform opinion about everything related to the library. Problems could arise through this.

One way to counter this is to limit access to login information.

This raises another concern: It only allows the people with logins to express themselves via Twitter in the name of the library.

Make sure that we are clear on our mission and vision and anything that the twitterers would tweet about.

Call for volunteers to be part of the group?

Vered will draft some basic ideas about this and put it on the list to have a conversation about policies, pros and cons, etc.

One request: have report backs about Twitter at the regular meeting (if it is decided to go this route)

(6) Email communication, migration from google to mayfirst - short discussion and report back from Heather M. [5 minutes]

H gave an update. Brian Samek and Heather McCann have been working on this. Brian sent some concerns to OB IT and heard back on those, but not on the implementation questions.

Outstanding question: Can we still use google docs? (**Heather**)

Myrna is interested in helping with the migration.

Susie may be able to get us in touch with staff from mayfirst if we are having technical issues.

Can we use bostonradref@gmail? At least within the library, but will probably be part of a transition to the new occupyboston.org list

Can we migrate the archives of the google group.

Use an out of office message to let folks know about the new email address.

(6) Announcements/points of discussion - if not covered already [5 minutes each]

a) library logistics (tent needs, electricity, shelving, location)

It's possible that we could get money from Occupy Boston if we are a working group. This could be used to purchase supplies if needed.

Book carts, so that the free boxes don't sit outside on the ground. Maybe a wagon or another substitute?

3x3x1 shelves - so they could be shut and locked for storage or transport. looking to also keep out moisture.

Articles in manilla folders and in a milk crate.

Create bibliographies of recommended articles

Rotating list of print articles? Have a few in the library for a week, add them to the bibliography, then recycle.

b) programming (childrens', user education)

Conversations at the library. Library page where we can have our own presentations up on youtube. Possibly bring people in to interview them in a small group. Writers workshops, wall section where people can add their ideas, writings, etc.,

There is a writing group (Wren - point person, in the women's caucus) working with people in more marginalized communities within OB. Self-perpetuating, meets as long as people are interested in meeting.

Ask people to come into library space and do brief audio interviews. (Susie and John have audio equipment; Alana has experience with interviews, etc.)

Call for people to come in and help out more often.

c) collection development/maintenance (new donations, needs)

Desperately need to weed. Chris & Heather are taking the free books to the nonprofit center on Saturday.

Keeping stuff of substance, usually within the categories that exist.

d) reference (scheduling, etc.)

Resend the schedule and call for help (**Heather**)

e) outreach (to OB working groups, general public, media) - including Heather M.'s report back from Legal meeting

Both of Susie's outreach opportunities resulted in reference questions and materials donations. These were sent to the list.

Women's caucus has been very responsive on a more individual level rather than as a group.

Doing direct outreach to other working groups seems a worthwhile exercise in Susie's estimation.

f) archives (of library project, of OB documents) (occupyarchive.org - anyone seen this?)

g) other topics

There is now a community organization tent and people are staying in those from area organizations. If people are coming in and don't want to set up their own tents, there are also ally tents that people can use.

7 Next meeting facilitators: Myrna M and Emily B.